

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00442 101545Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /086 W  
-----070915 101549Z /53

O P 281545Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0804  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY  
AMJLBASSY NAIROBI 0481  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION USUN NY  
COMIDEASTFOR  
USS FOX

C O N F I D E N T I A L DJIBOUTI 0442

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, MOPS, ASEC, DJ, ET: SO  
SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI TO REPLY TO ETHIOPIAN CHARGE OF U.S. CONNIVANCE  
WITH SOMALIS

REF: A) DJIBOUTI 0434, B) ADDIS ABABA 1383 (NOTAL)

1. DURING SOMEWHAT STORMY CABINET MEETING 28 MARCH, IT WAS  
DECIDED TO REPLY TO ETHIOPIAN STATEMENT OF 25 MARCH WHICH ALLEGED  
SOMALIA CONSPIRACY WITH U.S. ACCORD TO TAKE OVER DJIBOUTI.  
ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER, DECISION TAKEN OVER HIS BETTER  
JUDGEMENT TO IGNORE THE WHOLE BUSINESS; HOWEVER, AT PRESIDENT'S  
SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION, A STRONG STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED TOMORROW  
TELLING THE ETHIOPIANS EFFECTIVELY TO MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS, AND  
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THAT DJIBOUTI IS PERFECTLY ABLE TO MAKE ITS OWN DECISIONS ABOUT  
PROSPECTIVE MENACES TO ITS INDEPENDENCE. TEXT WILL BE PROVIDED  
DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

2. CHARGE HAD MEETING 28 MARCH WITH PRESIDENT OFFICE DIRECTOR,  
ISMAEL GHEDI, WHO CONFIRMED THAT GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI GAVE  
NO CREDENCE TO SUBSTANCE OF ETHIOPIAN CHARGES, AND THAT THERE

IS NO SUSPICION THAT WE HAVE ANYTHING OTHER THAN MOST PROPER MOTIVES ABOUT INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI. WE PROVIDED TEXT (REF B) OF ETHIOPIAN STATEMENT. DJIBOUTIANS ONLY HAD AFP DISPATCH. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO SAW PRESIDENT AT SAME TIME, REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT FULLY AWARE OF U.S. ROLE AND THAT HE MAINLY CONCERNED ABOUT MOTIVES OF ETHIOPIANS IN MAKING SUCH CHARGES. AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION LED BY AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANU DINKA ARRIVED IN DJIBOUTI 28 MARCH. THEY HAVE NOT YET MADE CONTACT WITH DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT. IT SEEMS A CURIOUS WAY TO SET STAGE FOR DELEGATION. FORMER PRIME MINISTER DINI DID NOT ARRIVE WITH GROUP.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF BROUHAHA WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL SAME DAY, THE FRENCH DEAN SUGGESTED THAT SOME KIND OF MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED ABOUT THE INCIDENT IS APPROPRIATE. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO BELIEVE ANYTHING IF LEFT ALONE LONG ENOUGH TO LET HIS IMAGINATION GO UNCONTROLLED. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT AT PRESENT IS WILLING TO ASCRIBE CHARGE TO SOME FORM OF ETHIOPIAN INTRIGUE, HE IS OBSESSED CONTINUALLY WITH DOUBTS ABOUT ANYTHING AND EVERYONE. THE RESULT IS NEED FOR A LOT OF HAND-HOLDING. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT THE WAY I HAVE PERMITTED RELATIONSHIP TO DEVELOP, IT IS CLEAR IN THIS CASE THAT SOME GESTURE IS NEEDED.

4. AS EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED FOR SOME TIME, SPECIFICALLY IN THE PRESENT CRISIS AS FAR BACK AS 15 MARCH, WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
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SOME DEPARTMENT ATTENTION TO U.S. NEED TO LET THE DJIBOUTIANS KNOW THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR DELICATE POSITION IN THE HORN, AGAIN, PLEASE ADVISE.  
CLARKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, ALLEGATIONS, PLOTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DJIBOU00442  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 DJIBOUTI 434, 78 ADDIS ABABA 1383  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, PDIP, MOPS, ASEC, DJ, ET, SO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014